PORTRAYAL OF WOMEN IN RAP SONG LYRICS

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ABSTRACT

Women are often demeaned and used as a sexual object in the rap music industry. The main purpose of this paper is to have an in depth understanding on how women are portrayed in rap and hip-hop music. Five rap artists were chosen from Billboard's Top Rap Airplay Artists in 2013 and 2014. This paper will employ Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG) and Transitivity Model by Michael Halliday (1994) will guide the analysis of the data. This study will answer three research questions: What are the processes in the rap song lyrics? What are the participants in the rap song lyrics? What are the misogynistic words, phrases and clauses found in the rap song lyrics? The analysis of the rap song lyrics revealed that women are indeed portrayed as the subordinate gender, devalued and degraded to being sexual objects.